

# **PART II: Final Report for Fiscal Years 2000-2004**

## **(5) International Adoptions**

**Children's Administration  
Department of Social and Health Services**

## **Final Report for FY 00-04: International Adoptions**

Children's Administration (CA) provides post permanency services to children and families through Child Protective Services, Child Welfare Services, and Family Reconciliation Services. These services are available to all residents of Washington State and can be accessed by contacting the local DCFS office.

Additionally, CA has provided services to any family facing risk of an adoption dissolution in Washington via a contracted agency since the late 1980's. Some 132 adopted children have been served through this contract since 2000.

When The Hague Act was adopted in 2000, CA had no way of documenting the data elements required by the Act. A new screen had to be added to the CAMIS module to ask "Has this child ever been adopted?" for every child placed in out of home care. The "ever adopted" element was implemented on October 1, 2003 after two and half years of development. The "ever adopted" element inquires about the type of adoption (international, private (non-dependent child), DSHS/licensed child placing agency (dependent child), out of state child welfare adoption, step parent adoption, other), the age at adoption, the agency name, and the foreign country in which the adoption occurred. Prior to the implementation of the "ever adopted" CAMIS screen, hand counts were conducted for years 2001 and 2002.

CA has seen relatively few adopted children entering out-of-home care. Since 2001, there have been 151 adopted children returned to out-of-home care. Of these children, nine were adopted internationally.

The information on these nine children is from hand counts and file review. The countries of origin for these children are:

- Russia (1)
- Columbia (1)
- Honduras (1)
- India (1)
- Bulgaria (5)

The child from India came into care briefly prior to the adoption being finalized. Services were offered by the child placing agency and the child was placed in a guardianship in 2001.

These internationally adopted children came into state funded foster care due to behavioral issues ranging from physical aggression to sexual aggression, including a sexual offense against a sibling. Two children came into care for mental health issues and one child came into care due to physical abuse by the adoptive parent.

The plans for these nine children included two guardianships established, long term foster care for one child, return home for five of the children and one child with dual plans of return home and long term foster care. One of these adoptions was handled by Adoption Advocates International; information about the placing agencies was not found in the other files.

On October 1, 2003, the "ever adopted" element in CAMIS was implemented. The report ran on April 14, 2004 listed 43 "ever adopted" children placed in out of home care, none of whom were international adoptions. The 43 does not include children placed in respite care. Of the 43, 25 are still in out of home care placements with 17 returned home.

The reasons for removal of the 43 children are

- 26: child's behavioral issues
- 12: abuse and neglect issues
- 3: caretaker inability to cope
- 1: parents deceased
- 1: child's disability

Over half of the children (35) were adopted via DSHS or a child placing agency (CPA), including a dependent child placed in a CPA approved adoptive home. Two of the children were private adoptions; three children were marked as other; three children were adopted out of state. The permanent plans for 31 of these children are return home, with two having plans of adoption and two with plans yet to be determined.

**Children's Administration  
Child and Family Services Plan  
Final Report for FY 00-04: International Adoptions Amendment  
January 2005**

Per federal request, Children's Administration presents the following information as an addendum to our June 30, 2004 Child and Family Services Plan:

For the period of 2001- 4/2003, no disrupted international adoptions were reported to Children's Administration.

Since no children from international adoptions came into state funded foster care during this same period, we have no children who were adopted internationally, entered foster care and had their adoptions dissolved.

Washington State continues to monitor all children who come into foster care from disrupted adoptions.